

September 16, 1958

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Dr. F. M. Burnet
Hall Institute of Medical Research
Royal Melbourne Hospital
Parkville, N.2. Australia

Dear Mac:

We hope you had a pleasant trip from Stockholm all the way back home. That was a close call about those traveler's checks and perhaps it's just as well you didn't have time to be worried about them!

I'm writing to send you the final version of a postscript to the Gatlinburg Conference dealing with the revision or elaboration of the clonal selection hypothesis for antibody formation. This has gone through a number of changes during the last couple of weeks and has kept me quite busy at it. I tried again and again to generalize the ideas further but I would repeatedly come back to a very slight extension of your own ideas and have therefore cast the final version along these lines. I'm sure that you intended the main function of your publication of your hypothesis to be to stir up exactly such discussion as this. I hope that none of the attributions or omissions thereof are out of line.

There is a small chance that we may be able to set up a few experiments to test some of the predictions but I doubt that a serious program can be gotten under way until we reach Stanford. To that end I am looking forward very much to the occasion of Gus's visit.

I would be most interested to have his reactions as well as yours to the proposal in its present form, but I hope that your own principal reaction will be that of fond recognition.

With all best regards.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/jp